

CATS Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 2 - 4
May-August 1994

The Capital Area
Timex/Sinclair Users
Group



Telecommunicating in Far Off Places

by
Mark Fisher

As I write this, I am in Saudi Arabia. My work takes me here, but my free time lets me explore my other interests. One of which, as most readers of this will know, is computers.

I had hoped to use E-mail as a primary mode of communication between Saudia and the US, but that hasn't panned out. I subscribed to CompuServe, after getting a download from them that showed access numbers for Saudi Arabia. It turned out that the numbers given were a cross between two alternate third party network services. One required a \$1500 deposit for applicants (they were burned by many reporters during the Gulf war), and the other was a government agency that has been hard to hook up with.

I have been using the computer to reach the states, however. By using a FAX/MODEM, I can send hard copy to almost anywhere - from the office of my employer here to the desk of the captain of the ship where I volunteer. It has proven to be fast and reliable, allowing far more communication in five minutes of connect time than 20 minutes of voice contact. In addition, it frees me from "world time" concerns - I FAX when I please, and my recipients pick it up at their leisure.

In the process of tracking the satellite network connection down, however, I came across Mr. Fahad. He is the owner of Waseet Computers (as opposed to Alwaseet, the government network provider), and, as a hobby, runs a BBS with ~1500 subscribers. He re-affirmed my difficulties in connecting out of the country. He is

providing simulated outside contact for his members by hooking up CD's holding core dumps from Compuserve conferences. This provides a database of mail for his subscribers to browse in.

Like many new endeavors in this country, his BBS setup is BIG. The database he has hooked up is reputedly numerous GigaBytes (I haven't read through it, I'm afraid). Here is a list of the catagories of programs "in stock:"

- 1 (SOFTWARE HITS) 2 (BUSINESS PROGRAMS)
- 3 (WORDPROCESSING) 4 (PUBLISHING)
- 5 (WINDOWS APPLICATIONS) 6 (WINDOWS GAMES & ets)
- 7 (SPREAD SHEETS (TO COVER THE BODY))
- 8 (DATABASE PROGRAMS) 9 (HOME & FAMILY)
- 11 (TEXT AND REFERENCE) 12 (LIST AND INFO)
- 13 (HEALTH & FOOD RECIPES) 14 (GAMES AND HUMER)
- 15 (GRAPHICS AND PAINTS) 16 (GIF & SOME PICTURES) 17 (MATH AND SCINCE)

Continued on page 2

A Word from the Editor:

Hey Lucy! I'm home! Well, there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip, and this newsletter (and CATS) has had to endure a number of them. My job took me out of the country just before the April issue of the newsletter was sent. I had hoped to continue editing this n/l from Saudi Arabia via CompuServe, but that was not to be (see inside)

That, added to missed connections with the Curnutts, has ended up with a large hole in our regular monthly record. For my part in the gap, I am sorry.

And now I'll be leaving in August as well! I understand that there'll be a paste-up session for the September Newsletter at the start of the August meeting. I'll be looking forward to seeing the results!

M.F.

continued from page 1

18 (COMMUNICATIONS) 19 (QBASIC & BASIC)
20 (EDUCATIONAL) 21 (CAD, CAM AND ENG)
22 (OPERATING SYSTEM) 23 (HARD DISK
UTILITIES) 24 (FLOPPY DISK UTILITIES)
25 (OS/2, PAM & UTILITIES) 26 (DOS / UNIX
UTILITIES) 27 (PRINTERS UTILITIES)
28 (NETWORK UTILITIES) 29 (KEYBOARD, &
MOUSE etc) 30 (SCREEN UTILITIES) 32 (VIRUS
PROTECTION) 33 (PERSONAL SYSTEMS)
34 (PROGRAM DEMOS) 35 (GRAB, BAG)
36 (ASP PROGRAMS) 37 (MODEM UTILITIES)
38 (C & ASSEMBLY LONGUGE) 39 (HAM RADIO
UTILITIES) 40 (ARTIFICIAL INTELL)
41 (TRAKBLASTER FILES) 43 (ADLIB & MIDI)
44 (PC SPEAKER SOUND) 45 (MUSICAL
POTPOURRI) 46 (PROGRAMMERS UTILITIES)
47 (ASSEMBLY SOURCE CODE) 48 (TURBO
PASCAL SOURCE) 49 ("C" & C++ SOURCE)
50 (BASIC SOURCE CODE) 51 (DBASE FILES &
UTILITIES) 52 (CLIPPER & FOXBASE)
53 (SOURCE CODE A to Z) 54 (MISCELLANEOUS)
55 (FREQUENT QUESTIONS) 56 (ICONE & MORE)
57 (COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN) 58 (Files Of
Conference 2) 59 (Recent Uploads)

Here's a message from Mr. Fahad. For a native English typist, the first thing that is noticed is the spelling. It is about 15% phonetic, using Arabic pronunciation rules. The onlooker must remember that this is an educated man, part of a community of people that are more or less forced to use a foreign language to communicate. Needless to say, if I were forced to communicate in Arabic, the results wouldn't progress beyond pathetic.

Date: 02-25-94 (23:56)
of 3432 (Refer# NONE)
To: MARK FISHER
From: FAHAD AL-AFALIQ
Subj: long message...
Status: PUBLIC MESSAGE
Conf: Main Board (0)
MAIL FOR YOU (+)

Number: 1803

Read Type: Fahad A. AL-Afaliq

HELLO ...MARK FISHER...

this is one of my long Generic messages ...so please give it some of you time and if you could talk it over on other boards.

< thank you if you are going after this line >.

I have been working on the BBS and for some time and many users help to make this Bulletin board to be a BBS . so i have been asked by

many users the same Q many times and i get the same Q evry day very few who make it Public message , so i keep on giving the same Info every day to defrent users , and this is one of the Topic's that evry Sysop get by Private mail some ask about what is a BBS others Ask how do it run and some ask many other things to some users some of the things that some user ask is sely but its not , remember that you Started with no enformtion about it and you worked your way up so for this kind of Q and Topic's i want to make a stop to it and help the users who don't know that they are not the only people ask the same i will make a TEXT file about what the BBS and what is the Sysop and the USERS and that will be on one of the Bulletin's and i will tell you when it be there , i know its a big topic but i think i am a Sysop and User and i set and talk to many Sysop's here and in defrent place's out of the KSA and i call BBS's out so i think i can make it and if you see some thing wormg in the file please tell me so i can edit it , not only in spilling < for give me but i am not that good in writing > but the main thing in the Topic „some of you out there i know they know the Sysop's work and some seen the boards so i might get some help on it . this file or Enfo will be given to any one ask any thing about the boards all i have to tell him go and read the Bulletin that way it save me time and it save the other users time and they don't get of seing the same thing going on & on

thank you for reading the message if you got to this point. if not you might do it next time you get in ..

Sysop

PS : if you see any user asking about this (topic) you don't have to reply him all you have to tell him read the Bulletin . I know the BBSERS like to reply , just in case.

Minutes Used: 21

Thanks for calling MARK FISHER, Call back soon!

P

NO CARRIER

Light Economics

by
George Rey

Let me sum up Econ 999. I am a technologist (Engineer), this makes me an economical-scientist. My hippocratic oath is to put "wheels" on science for the benefit of humanity, to make life less burdensome, more enjoyable, easier, etc. In other words to raise the "Quality of Human Life". Good engineering is not making Royal Roasters but Model T's that function, are safe, serviceable at affordable prices for the bulk of the populace and not hot-rods for the few that can afford them. The prime use of a car is for transportation to save time and physical effort (work). It is not to enslave people, nor prank about as princes.

The computer-communications technology that is upon us now saves TIME, provides info, improves work practices, etc. In general technology has been a boon to mankind. But, also, a bust when not used for beneficial purposes. The Megabyte- Megabuck electronic money making is beginning to disturb some economist since the ratio of this amount of money is 20 to 50 times the money wealth produced by the global GNP's. In earlier days it was much lower. PC's have made possible this high rate of turnover of money globally. Is the electronic age we are in, which makes all this possible, good for us? Is it productive in serving the populace or is it good only for a select few in the financial arena that juggle accounts trying to corner the wealth of the populace by changing market values of everything including money itself? I don't think anybody knows yet. But, it does look like a megagiant domino game which may self destruct and take all of us with it since we all deal with greenbacks that can change in purchasing power overnight.

If our Government can't balance its books truthfully it will by insidious means. One of our politicians had the nerve to propose

creative taxation. What that means is you don't see it but will feel it, its the inflation tax we are purposely stuck with but can't vote to rescind. That tax plus other creative taxes keep piling on top of the populace to where we are heading toward economic slavery with the politicians as our masters. Our people have yet to heed the advice of Jefferson - "Revolt against them at least once every generation to keep them honest".

Freedom as much as can be obtained, short of our obligation to Nature, is precious and of enormous value. Democracy can be one of the most insidious means to enslave people yet devised by man, so said an intellectual historian on the Buckley program a bit ago. Especially if the opportunity to make a living is not available because of irresponsible fiscal actions by all our Governments, political self-serving elected officials, and sharp shooting money men that like Government pick our pockets, literally, night and day, weekends and holidays.

It is said "The Piper must be Paid". He, now is asking our Government his due. The reasons for our monstrous debt are three, Irresponsible Government fiscal actions, their subsidizing the banking sector to contain the depression, and their inability to contain unbridled capitalist amongst us. The Greenspan plan may work, if it is not the "Impossible Dream", if it is there will be "Blood in the Streets". If any of you CATS know where to hide please post it on our bulletin board.

In sum every tax, seen or creative, is a step toward slavery for the overwhelming majority of us. Our Democracy is in danger. Our politicians have mastered the art of the con men. Money men are mastering the art of monopolizing your money. The avarice for power and money at the expense of the populace has to be corrected. We need to resurrect Jeffersonianism. And even consider Henry the VIII's only memorable quote "Lets shoot all the lawyers". There is a correlation of the density per capita of lawyers in a society and the amount of chaos in that society.

In closing let's remember our Naval tradition - "Don't Give Up the Ship" - even if it leaks.

THE CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR USERS GROUP is a not-for-profit group serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

Officers:

Chairman	Monthly position
Vice-Chairman	Monthly position
Recording Secretary	Monthly position
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Miller
Treasurer	Barry Washington
Newsletter Editor	Mark Fisher
	(301) 589-7407
	(301) 588-0579 BBS

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held from 12:00 M to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the New Carrollton Library.

Newsletter

User Group memberships cost \$10.00 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to software libraries, group buys, etc.).

Mail dues to:

LeBaron (Barry) Washington
7044 Cindy Lane
Annandale VA 22003

Networks

Timex SIG on Compuserve: Wednesday night
10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579, 8-N-1.
300/1200/2400 baud. Message base and files
for members, 24 hours a day, no time limits.

CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 11017
Takoma Park, MD 20913

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The next meeting of CATS will be held on: **August 13, 1994**
12:00 M Hardware workshop - bring your articles to help paste up the Sept. N/
2:00 PM General meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library

If you are not a member of CATS, this is the only issue you will receive.